

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 15-19, and 20-23 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, new claims 20-23 are added.

As a preliminary matter, claims 3-4 and 11-14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant submits that claim 3 complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) because claim 3 recites an anomalous shadow detection system wherein the image output means further outputs *certainty of detection* of the suspected anomalous shadow. Claim 1, however, recites that the image output means merely outputs information including at least *information identifying the detected suspected anomalous shadow* and *one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow*. Nowhere in claim 1 is there any recitation of the image output means outputting the *certainty of detection*. Thus, claim 3 complies with § 1.75(c).

Applicant submits that claim 4 complies with § 1.75(c). Claim 4 depends from claim 3, and claim 3 depends from claim 1, whereas claim 2 depends only from claim 1.

Claims 1-8 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,435 B1; hereinafter “Wang”). Applicant submits the arguments below in traversal of the claim rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable because Wang fails to disclose each and every element of the claim. Claim 1 recites:

An anomalous shadow detection system comprising:
anomalous shadow detecting means . . . , and
image output means . . . , wherein

... , and the anomalous shadow detecting means detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a *malignant tumor* is high.

Nowhere in Wang is there any disclosure of the claimed anomalous shadow detecting means which detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a *malignant tumor* is high. In the sections of Wang cited by the Examiner as purportedly disclosing the above features of claim 1, Wang merely discloses the detection of abnormalities and makes no determination as to whether the detected abnormalities are malignant tumors or not. Col. 5, line 59 - col. 6, line 27; and col. 7, lines 47-52.

Thus, for at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2-4, 5-8, 17/2, 17/3, 17/5, 17/6, 17/7, 17/8, and 18, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

Claim 15 is patentable for reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1. Specifically, Wang fails to disclose an anomalous shadow detecting means which detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a *malignant tumor* is high.

Claims 16, 17/15, 17/16, and 19, which depend from claim 15, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 15.


Applicant also adds new claims 20-23 to more fully claim the invention. The new claims are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/784,112

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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